

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A pigmented coating composition~~basecoat material~~ comprising  
one or more pigments, and  
a binder comprising at least one binder that is one or more~~a~~ water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy esters resin and/or one or more~~a~~ fatty acid modified alkyd resins.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~basecoat material~~pigmented coating composition of claim 1, wherein the binder consists of one or more binders selected from the group consisting of water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy ester resins, fatty acid modified alkyd resins, or mixtures thereof~~comprising as binders only one or more water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy esters and/or one or more fatty acid modified alkyd resins.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~basecoat material~~pigmented coating composition of claim 1, comprising from 1 to 10%, based on solids, of at least pigment shade stabilizing additive that consists of one or more water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy esters~~resins, and/or one or more fatty acid modified alkyd resins, or mixtures thereof.~~
4. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a pigmented coating composition, comprising basecoat materials, which comprises adding to a coating composition at least one pigment shade stabilizing additive selected from the group consisting of one or more water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy esters, and/or one or more fatty acid modified alkyd resins, and mixtures thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~A process for preparing basecoat materials, wherein only one or more water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy esters and/or one or more fatty acid modified alkyd resins are present therein as binder.~~The process of claim 4 wherein the at least one pigment shade stabilizing additive is mixed with one or more pigments before mixing with the coating composition.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A process for making a coated surface, comprising applying the composition of claim 1 to surface~~The use of the basecoat material of claim 1 or 2 for multicoat systems.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~use of claim 7, wherein the composition of claim 1 multicoat system~~is comprises at least one component of~~ a basecoat-clearcoat system.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~use of claim 7, wherein the ~~multicoat~~basecoat-clearcoat system is an automotive paint system.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~process of claim 7, wherein the automotive paint system is a refinish paint system.

11. (New) A pigmented coating composition comprising  
one or more pigments, and  
a binder,  
a pigment shade stabilizing additive consisting of at least one of a water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy ester resin, a fatty acid modified alkyd resin, or a mixture thereof.

12. (New) A method of stabilizing a pigment in coating composition, comprising mixing at least one pigment with a pigment shade stabilizing additive consisting of at least one of a water soluble, fatty acid modified epoxy ester resin, a fatty acid modified alkyd resin, or a mixture thereof.